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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D C 20548

CIVIL DIVISION

APR 11 1969

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Dear Dr. Paine

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The General Accounting Office has completed a review of the procurement of ground support equipment (GSE) for the Saturn S-II Program. This review was conducted at the Space Division of the North American Rockwell Corporation (NARC), Downey, California, and the Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), Huntsville, Alabama.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was previously furnished with a detailed summary of our tentative findings and conclusions. This document served as the basis for an exit conference at NASA Headquarters in August 1968.

After giving consideration to certain additional information furnished as a result of the exit conferences with NASA and with the contractor, and in view of the current limited GSE procurement activity under the Saturn S-II Program, we are not planning any further reporting of this matter. However, we have certain views that we believe should be brought to your attention.

In our review we found that certain items of GSE were acquired to support the Saturn S-II Program, although program changes had occurred or alternatives were available which seemed to make the acquisition unnecessary. It appears to us that, if these program changes and alternatives had been fully considered, the quantities of items acquired could have been reduced and cost savings would have resulted. We have specific reference to the A7-35, tank servicing mechanism, the SDD-143, tank entry protection room, and the SDD-266, interim propellant utilization valve control console, which were among the items discussed at the exit conference.

Although there appears to be nothing that can be done at this time to effect such savings in the Saturn S-II Program, in view of the present status of the program, we are bringing the matter to your attention for consideration in connection with other current or future programs to which it may be applicable.

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We appreciate the cooperation given to our representatives during the review. A copy of this letter is also being sent to NARC

Sincerely yours,

Morton E Henig

Morton E Henig
Assistant Director

The Honorable Thomas O Paine 34
Administrator, National Aeronautics
and Space Administration

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